

Keith Romaine. Tragically, Councilman Romaine's life was cut far too short on November 14 at the age of 36.

Keith Romaine devoted himself to family and to the community he loved. Like his father, Keith believed in putting public service first. He served as a Congressional aide and small business owner before his election in 2007 to the Brookhaven Town Board. Although Keith could have simply run on his strong family name, he worked hard to establish his own identity and accomplishments.

He served as President of the Moriches Bay Civic Association where he was a tireless advocate for this community.

On the Brookhaven Town Board he worked equally as hard, serving as a full-time representative for his community. Among his accomplishments in just one term were closing the composting facility on Papermill Road in Manorville, working with other levels of government to establish a skate park, and legislation to reduce unnecessary vehicle expenses which will save Brookhaven residents millions of dollars.

Shortly after his election to the Town Council, Keith sat down with me during some of my Community Office Hours and we discussed issues where we could work together. I saw his passion for his community and so did the people he represented.

In one of his last interviews, when Councilman Romaine was asked why he wanted to serve in Town government, he gave a simple, but telling answer, "You're the closest to the people."

Keith Romaine's career was only beginning and the Town of Brookhaven and Long Island will be worse off without him. My heart goes out to Keith's father Ed, his brother Kevin, his grandfather Edward, and the entire Romaine family on this tragic loss.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF KEITH ROMAINE

##### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the life and legacy of Keith Romaine, Brookhaven Councilman who we lost too soon on November 14, 2009 at the age of 36.

Keith will be remembered by family, friends, and constituents as a devoted public servant who worked tirelessly to improve his neighborhood and community. I offer my support to his family and friends upon the loss of a bright, intelligent, and dedicated community leader who will be sorely missed by the people of Long Island.

#### HONORING VENERINI ACADEMY, WORCHESTER, MA

##### HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of an incredible school, Venerini Academy, located in my district of

Worcester, Massachusetts. The mission of the Venerini Sisters in Worcester celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, and I am proud to recognize its many contributions to the community over the last century.

The school's and order's founder Rosa Venerini was born in Viterbo, Italy in 1656. She started the first public school for girls there, marking a milestone in the evolution of the education of women. Rosa knew the barriers women faced when life choices were limited often to marriage and the convent. Her father instilled in her a great respect for education and she wanted the same for future women. Rosa came to adopt the maxim, "educate to liberate".

In 1713, Rosa opened a school in Rome and Pope Clement XI paid her the honor of a visit. The Pope stayed the whole morning in the school listening to the class of catechism and asking the students questions. At the end of the visit, he called Rosa and her companions; he thanked her for their precious work, and said to them: "I desire that these schools spread to all of our cities." Within a short time the schools opened everywhere, teaching young women to read and other life skills such as sewing. By the time of her death in 1728, Rosa Venerini opened 40 schools across the world.

In 1909, the movement she started came to the United States, establishing its first mission outside Italy on Edward Street in Worcester, Massachusetts. Venerini Academy's hallmarks of dedicated educators and rigorous programs would become a vital part of the community and a model for many other successful missions in countries across the globe.

Madam Speaker, I am certain that the entire House of Representatives joins me in honoring and thanking the Venerini Sisters and the Venerini Academy for their contributions to our community and the education of our children, as well as expressing our hope and confidence in an even more accomplished second hundred years.

#### RECOGNIZING DAVID STAPLETON

##### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, most are familiar with ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition program which embarks on the monumental task of building a new home from the ground up in just one week for a deserving family. Last week in my hometown David Stapleton, owner of David Homes took on that job.

On a visit to the site I was expecting to see the construction team's progress on the Powell family's home on Massachusetts Avenue but what I witnessed far exceeded expectations.

Under David's leadership volunteers by the thousands were transforming not one home but an entire neighborhood on Buffalo's West Side. With local organizations including WNY AmeriCorps, PUSH Buffalo and Buffalo ReUse as partners and many more from the community stepping up to help, the extreme team went house to house patching roofs, fixing porches, planting shrubs, painting siding and more.

Hailed by producers as unlike any community effort they've seen in the show's history, David's team managed 4,500 volunteers working around the clock for one week improving over 50 homes. But it didn't stop there. Their generosity inspired others, prompting food and blood drives and the construction of a community garden.

David agreed to this project knowing he could not simply go into this neighborhood and build one home. Producers feared he would lose focus but he knew he would have to do better and that he did.

Madam Speaker, today I am honored to recognize David Stapleton for taking on the assignment to develop a home and turning it into an opportunity to develop hope—hope for a family, a neighborhood and an entire city. What David Stapleton built last week is a better future for the Western New York Community and for that we are grateful.

#### HONORING COACH VERNON GLASS

##### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, The Lamar University Cardinals in Beaumont, Texas lost one of its legends in December 2005 with the passing of former head football Coach Vernon Glass. In an effort to keep Vernon's presence in the football program alive, The University recently renamed its newly renovated practice field The Coach Vernon Glass Field of Champions.

Glass served as Lamar's head coach from 1963 through 1975. His 1964, 1965, 1966, and 1971 Cardinal teams won Southland Conference Championships and he finished his career with a 63–68–1 record. He was recognized as the NCAA College Division Coach of the year in 1964 and 1965. One of Coach Glass' former students called him 'a true champion and a great legend'. Therefore, it is only fitting for the university to recognize him by naming the practice field the "Field of Champions".

Madam Speaker, it is truly remarkable when one human being can touch so many lives. Coach Vernon Glass did just that during his years as a football Coach at Lamar University. The Second District of Texas recognizes Coach Glass for his years of dedication and service to the University and to improving the lives of the many players who played on the field under his leadership.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

##### HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding funding received in my district as part of H.R. 2996, the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

City of Lufkin Water Project. STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project, the City

of Lufkin, P.O. Drawer 190, Lufkin, Texas 75902, \$400,000 to help the city purchase the water production and transmission facilities owned by a local, but long-idle and deteriorating paper mill in danger of becoming an environmental hazard with long-term national implications. The funding will be used to develop infrastructure for the storage and treatment of 17 million gallons of water per day from the Angelina River and Kurth Lake, helping meet the increasing residential, commercial and industrial demands for potable water in a growing region of the state, which is relied on repeatedly by evacuating hurricane victims.

#### CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2868) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to extend, modify, and recodify the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance security and protect against acts of terrorism against chemical facilities, and for other purposes:

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chair, as the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I study national security issues a great deal and fully understand the risks posed by terrorism.

Terrorists from home and abroad have killed innocent Americans, which is why we in Congress have an obligation to diminish the likelihood of these kinds of terrorist attacks by strengthening our military, by giving law enforcement additional tools, and by authorizing common sense homeland security regulations. But, in writing laws to protect the American people, we must carefully consider how new regulations might impact citizens and businesses.

In 2006, Congress directed the Department of Homeland Security to establish risk-based security performance standards for chemical facilities that use or store chemicals that can be attractive to terrorists. The Department issued its final chemical security regulations—the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards—in 2007, and, since then, businesses have been working in a collaborative manner with the Department to implement them.

For agriculture, the Department has acknowledged the unique nature of farming with respect to chemical regulations and has indefinitely exempted from regulation all end-users of chemicals used in agriculture, including farms, ranches, and other crop, feed, or livestock facilities.

In October 2009, the authority for the Department of Homeland Security to regulate chemical facilities expired. It was recently extended for one year through the fiscal year 2010 Homeland Security appropriations bill. In an effort to more permanently extend the Department's authority to regulate chemical facilities and to expand federal regulations to drinking water and waste water facilities, the House of Representatives considered H.R. 2868, the Chemical and Water Security Act of 2009.

To be sure, improving the security around these entities is an important national security objective, and the House Homeland Security Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee deserve a great deal of praise for gluing together H.R. 2868.

However, as a Congressman from rural Missouri, I examined H.R. 2868 through the lens of the farmers I represent. Some in the agricultural community do not support portions of this legislation relating to so-called Inherently Safer Technology requirements. They believe these new requirements could force makers of their fertilizers to change to more expensive or less effective products, eventually adding to producers' input costs.

I realize that the Committees of jurisdiction over H.R. 2868 worked hard to reach out to the agricultural community and that the bill was improved in Committee by Congressman MIKE ROSS (D-AR) and Congressman ZACH SPACE (D-OH) who added technical assistance grants for agricultural wholesalers. I also fully appreciate that the Department has exempted farms from its regulations for an indefinite period of time.

But, after careful consideration and review, it seems more work remains to assuage agriculture's concerns about the Inherently Safer Technology requirements. As H.R. 2868 was presented in the House, I could not lend my support to it based on the concerns of my farmers and Missouri's agricultural retailers.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, on Monday, November 16, 2009, I missed the last vote in a series of three votes. I missed rollcall vote No. 891. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote No. 891: "aye" (On agreeing to H.R. 3767).

#### RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SLE LUPUS FOUNDATION AND THE LUPUS COOPERATIVES OF NY FOR BEING LEADERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST LUPUS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the SLE Lupus Foundation and the Lupus Cooperatives of New York for their contributions to help people with lupus and for fighting gender and racial disparities in the treatment of lupus for almost 40 years.

Systemic lupus erythematosus, SLE, commonly called lupus, is a chronic and potentially fatal autoimmune disorder. It is one of the Nation's least recognized major diseases, and it disproportionately affects women, particularly women of color. In lupus, the body's immune system forms antibodies that can attack virtually any healthy organ or tissue, from the

kidneys to the brain, heart, lungs, skin, joints and blood. Lupus is a leading cause of cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, and stroke in young women. No major new treatments for lupus have been approved in 50 years.

The SLE Lupus Foundation, headquartered in New York City with a West Coast division in Los Angeles, was founded in 1970. It is a nonprofit organization that provides direct patient services, education, public awareness, and funding for novel lupus research on the national level. The Foundation deals with the predominance and severity of such lupus complications as kidney and cardiac disease in Blacks, Hispanics, Asians and people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Madam Speaker, in 1998, the SLE Lupus Foundation opened the first Lupus Cooperative of New York in East Harlem. The Lupus Cooperative programs ensure that people of lupus receive the medical treatment, emotional care and practical assistance needed to live with this chronic disease, no matter their gender, or ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Over the past decade, the Lupus Cooperatives have focused on communities characterized by high poverty rates, large numbers of uninsured residents, numerous single-parent families and a population at high risk for lupus. They have worked actively to address gender and racial health disparities by demonstrating a collaborative model for the management of chronic illness among young, inner-city minority women.

The SLE Lupus Foundation is a member organization of the Lupus Research Institute National Coalition, which has affiliate organizations nationwide. Through the Lupus Research Institute National Coalition, the SLE Lupus Foundation has created visibility for the needs of underserved populations through awareness-building, advocacy and direct education programs on a national, state and local level.

Highlights of accomplishments include:

"Invisible No More" forum on race and lupus at the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference in 2004;

Educational panel on heart disease and lupus presented at the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference in 2005;

Spanish language public awareness campaign to alert Hispanic women to the dangers of lupus in 2005;

Congressional briefing on racial disparity in lupus to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in 2006;

Five-City series on the increased risk of heart disease in people with lupus, particularly young women and African-American women. That was presented in conjunction with the Association of Black Cardiologists in 2007. The series was held in New York City, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Detroit;

National Lupus Health Education for Physicians and Health Care Providers—in partnership with the Office of Minority Health and Human Services.

Madam Speaker, the SLE Lupus Foundation has accomplished and will continue to accomplish great things for people with lupus. I am grateful to the SLE Foundation and the Lupus Cooperative of New York for the work that they do to help people with lupus nationwide.